

THE PECONIC ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP

NEWSLETTER

What's Inside:

Learn about our communications strategy and take the survey!

Read about our recent symposiums!

Explore our Mini-Grant projects!

Get a status update on our Meetinghouse Creek Project!

See photos from events that took place this year!

Discover what's happening around the estuary!

Thank you to our partners!



● About PEP

The Peconic Estuary Partnership (PEP) is a National Estuary Program that acts as a backbone organization, bringing together partners from different sectors around common goals. PEP staff and our partners support monitoring, research, collaboration, and education to address priority issues within the Peconic Estuary Watershed. PEP acts as a bridge between science and policy, ensuring that informed citizens, along with all other stakeholders, have a voice in the decision-making process.



Peconic Estuary
Partnership

PROTECTING AND RESTORING LONG ISLAND'S PECONIC BAYS



Project Updates

● Mini Grants

PEP launched the 2024 Mini Grant program to implement projects that assist in accomplishing PEP's 2020 Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) goal of Clean Waters for Ecosystem Health and Safe Recreation.

CURRENT PEP MINI GRANT PROJECTS:

The Perfect Earth Project with "Reducing Nutrient Pollution in the Peconic Estuary Watershed Through Residential Outreach and Nature-Based Land Care Education".

The Accabonac Protection Committee with "Enhancing Water Quality Communications in the Accabonac Watershed".

The Citizen Science Learning Center with "Adopt-a-pond Water Quality Monitoring and Pond Keepers Educational Programing".

[Read More on our website](#)



**The Perfect Earth Project's
Mini Grant funded
workshop in March 2025**



National Estuary Program (NEP) Reauthorization

A bill to reauthorize the National Estuary Program, the Enhancing Science, Treatment, and Upkeep of America's Resilient and Important Estuarine Systems (ESTUARIES) Act, was introduced in the House and Senate on June 12, 2025. The House bill is being led by Rep. Shomari Figures (D-AL-02) and Rep. Brian Mast (R-FL-21) alongside Reps. Rick Larsen (D-WA-02), Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR-01), Mike Haridopolos (R-FL-08), and **Nick LaLota** (R-NY-01). The Senate version of the bill was introduced led by Sens. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA).

We are thrilled that our Congressman LaLota is championing this bill!



● Meetinghouse Creek Wetland Restoration: Green Infrastructure for Stormwater Management, Coastal Vulnerability, and Resiliency.

With funding from The Investments in Infrastructure and Jobs Act (IIJA), PEP is allocating \$600,000 of IIJA funds to the Meetinghouse Creek Wetland Restoration. This constructed wetland will mitigate flooding, as well as capture and filter stormwater pollution, preventing contaminants from entering our water. Construction is anticipated to begin summer 2025.

[Scan the QR code to visit our Meetinghouse Creek website page and learn more about the project!](#)



Communications Strategy

The Peconic Estuary Partnership is launching an effort designed to share compelling stories about the estuary and the vital work being done to protect and restore the Peconic Bays. To ensure these stories resonate and inspire action, we need your insights. These meetings are an opportunity to hear what matters most to you about the health of the Peconic Estuary and explore how the Partnership can best support and elevate those priorities. See last page for dates!



Scan to access
questionnaire

● Your insights are important to us! →

The communication specialists at Marstel-Day are seeking your feedback to better understand how PEP can serve and connect with our communities. We want to understand what you know about the Partnership, how you stay informed, and ways we can improve our interactions with people across the Estuary. Your input will help guide our efforts and strengthen our partnerships within the community. Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts!

[Please take the following questionnaire](#)



Past Symposium

Shoreline Summit

The PE Shoreline Summit event featured guest speaker presentations, local panel discussion on Peconic shoreline protection, and next steps. The summit highlighted key findings from the **PEP-NYSG Shoreline Adaptation Groups'** workshops, interviews, and research.

[Read More about PEP Shoreline Adaptation Initiative](#)



● Upcoming Symposium

Peconic Bay Scallop Symposium

PEP and NYSG will be hosting the Peconic Bay Scallop Symposium! We hope to use this event as an opportunity to encourage conversation between members of industry, regulatory bodies, researchers, and the general public to the current state of the bay scallop fishery as it relates to the Peconic Bays.

Wednesday, July 16
8:00am – 5:00pm

Suffolk County Community College - Eastern Campus
121 Speonk Riverhead Rd, Riverhead, NY 11901

Questions?
Contact: marissa.velasquez@stonybrook.edu

Happening Around The Estuary

● Join us at an upcoming event!

Perfect Earth Project Living Lands Workshop
July 17 5:30-7:30, Shelter Island Presbyterian Church

Communication Strategy Meeting
July 21 6-7:30 pm, Ashawagh Hall, East Hampton

Communication Strategy Meeting
July 22 6-7:30, Peconic Baykeeper Office, Hampton Bays

Montauk Speaker Series - Marissa Velasquez-Rosante
July 29 2:00-3:00, Montauk Lighthouse

NY Marine Rescue Center Turtle Release (RD- Aug 14)
August 6 6pm, Tiana Beach, Hampton Bays

CSLI Bioblitz Webinar
August 7 6-7pm, Zoom

In-Person Bioblitz Event
August 16 10am-12pm, Cranberry Bog Nature Preserve, Riverhead

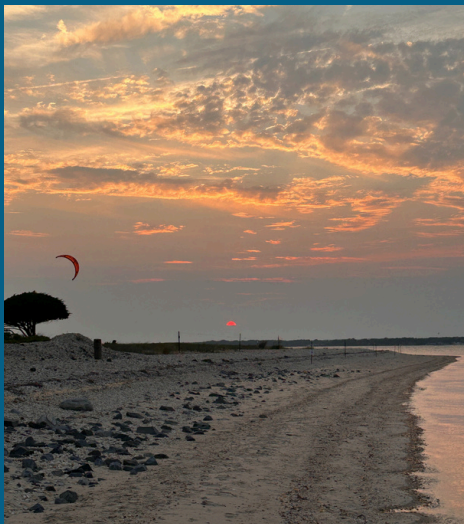
Perfect Earth Landscape Therapy Workshop
August 16 Time TBD, The Church, Sag Harbor

Perfect Earth Landscape Therapy Workshop
September 7 10:30 am , Long House Reserve

ReWild Meadows Tour
September 13 Time and Location TBD

International Coastal Cleanup Day Beach Cleanup
September 20 Time and Location TBD

[Check out our website calendar to register and for more upcoming events!](#)



Thank You To Our Partners

Thank you to all of our partner organizations for working with us to protect and restore the Peconic Estuary. We truly could not do this work without your collaboration!



Winter Watershed Walks



River Herring Training



Natural History Conference



Horseshoe Crab Monitoring



Shoreline Summit



Rain Barrel Workshop



Earth Stock